News Release

Public Affairs and Corporate Communications Office
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For Immediate Release
February 5, 1998
News Release 1998-001

Memorandum for Correspondents
Navy to Launch Next Generation Meteorological Satellite Monday

SAN DIEGO -- The U.S. Navy is scheduled to launch its next generation meteorological/oceanographic satellite early Monday morning February 9th from Vandenberg AFB atop an Orbital Sciences Corporation Taurus launch vehicle.

The San Diego-based Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command Meteorological and Oceanographic Systems Program Office is responsible for the acquisition and launch of the GeoSat Follow-On satellite (commonly referred to as GFO). Ball Aerospace & Technologies Corp., (BATC) is the prime contractor for GFO. The GFO mission will support U.S. Navy, NOAA, NASA, and University ocean science and ocean monitoring.

The specific launch time for the GeoSat Follow-On is being reviewed because of storms currently in the Pacific Ocean that are expected to hit the California coast this weekend. A news media pre-launch availability at the Taurus site is planned for mid-Saturday afternoon. The times of Saturday's availability and Monday's launch will be announced Friday. News media representatives are invited to the launch viewing site 45 minutes prior to lift-off. A post-launch press conference is planned for 10:00 a.m. Monday at Vandenberg AFB.

A GFO fact sheet is available on the SPAWAR Corporate Communications and Public Affairs website at http://www.spawar.navy.mil

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This is a SPAWAR / 30th Space Wing Coordinated News Media Advisory

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Last update: Thursday, December 07, 2000